

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1.    **(Original)**    An optical coupler comprising:  
          a spherical lens; and  
          an aspherical lens configured to directly contact an optical fiber; and  
          wherein said lenses are situated in the same optical path.
2.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 1, wherein:  
          said spherical lens comprises a glass material; and  
          said aspherical lens comprises a non-glass material.
3.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 2, wherein said spherical lens is a ball lens.
4.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 3, wherein said aspherical lens comprises a plastic material.
5.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 4, wherein said aspherical lens is approximately concave.
6.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 4, wherein said aspherical lens is approximately convex.
7.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 5, wherein said aspherical lens is a molded plastic lens.
8.    **(Original)**    The coupler of claim 6, wherein said aspherical lens is a molded plastic lens.

9.     **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 7, wherein said aspherical lens is injection molded.
10.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 8, wherein said aspherical lens is injection molded.
11.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 3, wherein:  
          a light source is situated proximate to said spherical lens; and  
          an optical medium is situated proximate to said aspherical lens;
12.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 11, wherein light from the light source may  
propagate through said spherical lens and said aspherical lens, respectively.
13.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 12, further comprising a window situated between  
the light source and said spherical lens.
14.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 13, wherein the optical medium is an optical fiber.
15.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 14, wherein the light source is a vertical cavity  
surface emitting laser.
16.    **(Original)**     The coupler of claim 15, wherein the optical fiber is single mode.

17. **(Original)** An optical coupling system comprising:  
a spherical ball lens comprising a glass material; and  
an aspherical lens comprising a plastic material; and  
wherein said spherical ball lens and said aspherical lens are situated on a common optical  
axis.
18. **(Original)** The system of claim 17, wherein said aspherical lens is coupled to an  
optical fiber.
19. **(Canceled)**
20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** A coupling means comprising:  
means for spherically focusing light from a light source;  
means for aspherically focusing light from said means for spherically focusing light; and  
means for inputting light into an optical medium from said means for aspherically  
focusing light, the optical medium contacting the means for aspherically focusing  
light.
22. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 21, wherein:  
the light source is a laser; and  
the optical medium is a fiber.
23. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 22, wherein:  
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser; and  
the fiber is a single mode optical fiber.
24. **(Original)** The coupling means of claim 23, wherein said means for spherically  
focusing light conveys more light power than said means for aspherically focusing light.
25. **(Currently Amended)** The coupling means of claim 24, wherein:  
said means for spherically focusing light uses ~~glass-like material~~ including glass for  
focusing light; and  
said means for aspherically focusing light uses ~~plastic-like material~~ including plastic for  
focusing light.

26. **(Currently Amended)** A method for coupling light, comprising:  
spherically focusing light from a light source resulting in a first portion of light having a first focal point on an optical axis and a second portion of light having a second focal point on the optical axis; and  
aspherically focusing the first portion of light and the second portion of light resulting in the first and second portions of light having a common focal point at a point of contact between an aspherical lens and an optical medium.
27. **(Original)** The method of claim 26, wherein:  
spherically focusing the light from the light source is effected by a ball lens; and  
aspherically focusing the first and second portions of light from the ball lens is effected by an aspherically-shaped lens.
28. **(Original)** The method of claim 27, wherein the common focal point is at a place of an optical medium.
29. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 28, wherein:  
the ball lens comprises a glass-like material; and  
the aspherically-shaped lens comprises a plastic-like material.
30. **(Original)** The method of claim 29, wherein:  
the light source is a laser; and  
the optical medium is an optical fiber.
31. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein:  
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting light source; and  
the optical fiber is a single mode fiber.

32. **(Original)** An optical coupler comprising:  
an aspherical lens on an optical axis; and  
a spherical lens on an optical axis; and  
wherein:  
said aspherical lens is proximate to an optoelectronic element; and  
said spherical lens is proximate to an optical medium.
33. **(Currently Amended)** The coupler of claim 32, wherein:  
said aspherical lens comprises a plastic-like material; and  
said spherical lens comprises a glass-like material.
34. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 33, wherein said spherical lens is a ball lens.
35. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 34, wherein:  
said optoelectronic element is a light source; and  
said optical medium is an optical fiber.
36. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 35, wherein the light source is a laser.
37. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 36, wherein:  
the laser is a vertical cavity surface emitting laser; and  
the optical fiber is single mode fiber.
38. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 34, wherein:  
the optoelectronic element is a detector; and  
said optical medium is an optical fiber.
39. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 38, wherein said optical fiber is single mode fiber.
40. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 38, wherein said optical fiber is multimode fiber.

41. **(New)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the aspherical lens includes a first side that is approximately concave and configured to receive an optical signal and a second side that substantially flat.

42. **(New)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the aspherical lens includes a substantially flat portion that is configured to directly contact the optical fiber.